

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 L-03 AID-20 DODE-00 IGA-02 SS-20 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1619

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 3923

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS TALKS WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

REF: STATE 97563

1. SUMMARY: IN CORDIAL, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA MAY 11 AND 12, INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS COORDINATOR VANCE AND DEA DIRECTOR BARTELS RECEIVED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL TO ALL PROJECTS PROPOSED IN REFTEL. ATTORNEY GENERAL AGREED TO ESTABLISH WORKING GROUPS TO DEAL WITH USG ON SUCH PROJECTS AS COMPASS TRIP, THE FORWARD BASE CONCEPT, HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE AND PILOT TRAINING, HELICOPTER REPLACEMENT, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR MEXICAN ARMY IN ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, AND MFJP TRAINING INSTITUTE AND PROFESSIONALIZATION. IN ADDITION DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON INTELLIGENCE, THE MINI-BENNIE CONSPIRACY AND ILLEGAL ARMS SMUGGLING. WORKING GROUPS WILL SUBMIT REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH USG WILL CONSIDER IN PLANNING POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE BY DATES SPECIFIED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR VANCE AND DEA DIRECTOR BARTELS HELD TWO DAYS OF CONVERSATIONS MAY 11-12 WITH GOM GROUP HEADED BY MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA. ALSO PRESENT AT TALKS WERE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROSALES MIRANDA AND DR. ALEJANDRO GETZ ON
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MEXICAN SIDE, AND (ON USG SIDE) DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR EYMAN,

SEAM COORDINATOR MORENO, DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR HEATH AND
NARCOTICS COORDINATOR ALBERTI.

3. AS EXPECTED, TALKS WERE HELD IN EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND VERY
INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE. MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL SHOWED HIMSELF
EVEN MORE PREDISPOSED TO CONSIDER AND ACCEPT US SUGGESTIONS THAN
USUAL. WHILE NO FIRM COMMITMENTS OTHER THAN COMPASS TRIP WERE
MADE, ATTORNEY GENERAL ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE ALL PROJECTS PROPOSED
AND US TEAM SAID USG PREPARED CONSIDER A NUMBER OF PROJECTS,
SUBJECT TO RECEIPT OF CONCRETE GOM REQUESTS AND TO AVAILABILITY
OF FUNDS. SPECIFICALLY, POINTS AGREED ON WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. COMPASS TRIP

DEA TEAM WILL COME TO MEXICO ASAP TO BRIEF ATTORNEY GENERAL
ON RESULTS OF COMPASS TRIP PILOT PROGRAM. THEN, IF ATTORNEY
GENERAL WANTS TO USE PROGRAM, GOM WILL SEND ITS 5 COMPASS TRIP
PERSONNEL TO US FOR FURTHER TRAINING STARTING JUNE 1. USG WOULD
TURN OVER NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO GOM IN NEAR FUTURE, AND WOULD
SEND US TECH EXPERT TO MEXICO. ATTORNEY GENERAL GAVE ASSURANCES
THAT EQUIPMENT WOULD BE USED ONLY FOR NARCOTICS ERADICATION AND
THAT USG WOULD OF COURSE HAVE ACCESS TO RESULTS OF PROGRAM. AG
ALSO AGREED TO DESIGNATE GOM PERSONNEL TO WORK WITH US EXPERTS ON
PROGRAM; ONE FACTOR AG SAID HE WOULD INVESTIGATE SOONEST IS
WHETHER GOM HAS AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE THAT MIGHT BE SUITABLE AND
WITH US EXPERTS WOULD DETERMINE IF THAT AIRCRAFT MET REQUIREMENTS.
IF NOT USG WOULD SUPPLY AIRCRAFT.

B. HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE

GOM TO GIVE DEA MEXICO REPORT ON FUTURE MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE,
FUEL AND SPARE PARTS NEEDS BY JUNE 1.

C. PILOT AND MECHANIC TRAINING

REPORT ON NEEDS AND PEOPLE AVAILABLE FOR HELICOPTER PILOT,
MECHANIC AND ELECTRICIAN TRAINING TO BE GIVEN DEA MEXICO BY
JUNE 15.

D. HELICOPTER OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

REPORT ON FUEL AND SPARE PARTS EXPENDED IN 1974 CAMPAIGN TO BE
AVAILABLE BY JUNE 1.

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E. HELICOPTER REPLACEMENT

GOM TO GIVE EMBASSY REPORT THIS WEEK ON HOW MANY BELL 206'S ARE
OUT OF COMMISSION PERMANENTLY AND REQUIRE TOTAL REPLACEMENT.
JOINT STUDY GROUP WILL ALSO SUBMIT REPORT FOR OUR CONSIDERATION
ON THEIR NEEDS FOR POSSIBLE NEW HELICOPTERS IN ADDITION TO ABOVE
REPLACEMENTS; THIS BY JUNE 1.

F. HELICOPTER MODIFICATION

THEY ALSO FAVOR THIS IDEA, TO BE CARRIED OUT AS SIMPLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COME FROM JOINT STUDY GROUP.

G. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ERADICATION

ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL GIVE US ESTIMATION BY AUGUST 10 ON DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN AMOUNT ORDINARILY BUDGETED PER SOLDIER AND REAL AMOUNT EXPENDED BY EXTRAORDINARY REQUIREMENTS OF ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. HIS OFFICE THEN WOULD TURN THIS AMOUNT OVER TO ARMY. HE SAID THIS MIGHT BE PLACE WHERE USG COULD HELP WITH FUNDING, PROVIDED ALL UNIFORMS, RATIONS, ETC. WERE PURCHASED FROM OFFICIAL GOM SOURCES. (COMMENT: WE QUESTION WHETHER THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL IN FACT MATERIALIZE; THE AG LATER TOLD MR. BARTELS HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER SUCH DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY ARMY EXPENSES ACTUALLY EXISTED. DEFENSE ATTACHE ALSO CONSIDERS SUCH ATTEMPT BY AG TO REIMBURSE ARMY MAY WELL PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE SINCE SECDEF JEALOUS OF PREROGATIVES AND TOLD DATT AG DOES NOT RUN MILITARY.)

H. FORWARD BASE CONCEPT AND "HEAVY LIFT" HELICOPTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL VERY RECEPTIVE TO THIS IDEA. AGREED TO ESTABLISH WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS TO WORK WITH DEA MEXICO, HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS ON FORWARD BASE CONCEPT (INCLUDING POSSIBLE HEAVY LIFT HELICOPTER AND/OR STOL AIRCRAFT) READY BY JUNE 15. FOR POLITICAL REASONS AG WOULD NOT ACCEPT US MILITARY AIR MOBILE ADVISOR BUT WAS OPEN TO IDEA OF SENDING US CIVILIAN WITH SAME EXPERTISE TO MEXICO. ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID FORWARD BASES COULD BE KEPT VERY SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE.

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1620

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 3923

I. TRAINING INSTITUTE AND "PROFESSIONALIZATION" OF MFJP

ATTORNEY GENERAL AND DR. GERTZ EXPLAINED THEY JUST SETTING UP MFJP TRAINING INSTITUTE, TO BEGIN OPERATION JULY 1 WITH APPROX. 50 RECRUITS. INSTITUTE WOULD PROVIDE 6 MONTHS TRAINING (INCLUDING NARCOTICS) FOR ALL NEW MFJP RECRUITS, AND ALSO TWO MONTHS COURSE (AGAIN WITH LARGE NARCOTICS ELEMENT) FOR THOSE AGENTS ALREADY IN SERVICE. AG SAID HE COULD USE USG HELP IN TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT. AG SAID HIS INSTITUTE BUDGET WOULD INCLUDE TRAVEL MONEY AND AND SMALL SALARY FOR TRAINEES, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED LATTER NOT VERY ADEQUATE. AGREED SEND DR. GERTZ TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS AT DEA NATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THEN US EXPERTS WOULD COME TO MEXICO TO HELP IN START-UP; WE ALSO COULD TRAIN TRAINERS, AND GIVE EQUIPMENT. CONCERNING TRAVEL EXPENSES AND PER DIEM FOR OTHER AGENTS, AG WILL SEEK MORE FUNDS, BUT THEY STILL WILL BE INADEQUATE. RE POSSIBLE USG ASSISTANCE ON PER DIEM FOR TRAINEES OR AGENTS, AG SAID HIGHER RATES AND SALARIES CAN'T BE DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE OTHER GOM CIVIL SERVANTS. HE MENTIONED POSSIBLE "UNFORSEEN EXPENSES". HE PROVIDING QUARTERS TO PILOTS AND AGENTS ON SPECIAL MISSIONS. WE INTEND EXPLORE FURTHER POSSIBILITY USG ASSISTANCE UNDER "UNFORSEEN EXPENSE" RUBRIC.

4. OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED:
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A. INTELLIGENCE

BOTH SIDES AGREED TO OBVIOUS NEED FOR IMPROVED, MORE CONSISTANT INTELLIGENCE OBTENTION AND EXCHANGE, AND AG AGREED THAT SUCH SHOULD BE EFFECTED BY CLOSE DAILY WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEW DEA MEXICO INTELLIGENCE UNIT AND AG'S OWN NEW INTELLIGENCE UNIT, WHICH IS JUST ABOUT READY TO BEGIN WORKING WITH US. HE AGREED INITIALLY ASSIGN TWO INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS TO WORK WITH DEA. AG ALSO QUESTIONED WAY IN WHICH STATISTICS ON US BROWN HEROIN CONSUMPTION DERIVED, AND ASKED THAT BOTH SIDES WORK TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH UNIFORM STATISTICAL CRITERIA. HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL PIQUE AT ASSERTIONS BY USG SPOKESMEN ABOUT BALOONING PERCENTAGE OF MEXICAN ORIGIN HEROIN AVAILABLE IN US, SAYING SUCH STATEMENTS AROUSE CONCERN BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, PUT IN QUESTION MEXICAN EFFORTS AND ARE NOT CLEARLY SUPPORTED BY STATISTICS WHICH OPEN TO VARIETY OF INTERPRETATIONS. HE DID NOT DOWNPLAY GRAVITY OF MEXICAN HEROIN THREAT TO US, BUT ONLY QUESTIONED PRESENT STATISTICS AND POINTED UP NEED FOR COMMONLY AGREED UPON STATISTICAL REFINEMENTS.

B. MINI-BENNIE CONSPIRACY

ATTORNEY GENERAL EXPRESSED EAGERNESS TO WORK QUICKLY TO SEARCH OUT AND SEIZE PERSONS AND LABS INVOLVED IN MEXICO, AS SOON AS HE RECEIVES INFORMATION FROM DEA.

C. ILLEGAL ARMS SMUGGLING

AG EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR USG-PROVIDED INFORMATION ON ARMS SMUGGLING CASES AND SAID ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INTELLIGENCE UNIT WILL FACILITATE PROCESSING SUCH INFORMATION.

D. SMALL-SCALE MARIJUANA SMUGGLERS

AG AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCEPT FOR PROSECUTION IN MEXICO, MEXICAN NATIONALS WHO BECAUSE OF SMALL AMOUNTS OF MARIJUANA SMUGGLED ARE DEPORTED TO MEXICO FROM US BORDER AREAS. IN LIEU OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

E. CONTINUING COOPERATION IN FIELD

AG FURTHER AGREED TO A CONTINUATION OF "OPERATION SEAM"--TYPE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN DEA AND MFJP, DESIGNED TO PROMOTE ERADICATION, INTERDICTION AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING.

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